

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
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UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 4
EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-04-12

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 4 closes set gillnetting in the Kasilof Section of the Upper Subdistrict of Upper Cook Inlet on Thursday, June 28, 2012 from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

This announcement also closes set gillnetting in the Northern District of Upper Cook Inlet on Thursday, June 28, 2012 from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Based on the poor performance of Kenai River early-run king salmon stocks, as well as king salmon stocks in Cook Inlet and other areas of the state, it is likely that the Kenai River late-run king salmon stock will also experience poor performance and require conservative management. Therefore, the department intends to manage the Kasilof Section set gillnet fishery with two primary objectives. First, the department is charged with meeting an optimum escapement goal (OEG) in the Kasilof River, enumerated with sonar, of 160,000-390,000 sockeye salmon. The set gillnet fishery will be fished with this escapement objective as the primary management target. In addition, the fishery will also be managed to conserve late-run king salmon stocks, especially if inseason assessment reveals these stocks are performing poorly.

The Kasilof River cumulative sockeye salmon passage estimate through midnight on June 26, 2012 is approximately 28,000 fish. This is the lowest estimated passage through this date in the past 10 years and is approximately 46% of the average cumulative passage of 62,000 fish during this time. It should be noted that the average cumulative passage estimate of 62,000 sockeye salmon includes years where commercial harvest had occurred; however, for the 2012 season, there has been no commercial harvest on Kasilof River sockeye salmon stocks.

In the Deshka River, weir counts combined with angler reports and staff surveys all indicate a weaker than anticipated run of king salmon. Weak king salmon runs are also occurring throughout the Susitna River drainage. The sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for king salmon in the Deshka River is 13,000 to 28,000 fish, as measured at the weir located at River Mile seven. Based upon average run timing and the cumulative king salmon passage estimate of 8,501 fish at the Deshka River weir through June 26, the current final escapement projection falls below the 13,000 minimum goal.